

# Baltimore City Department of General Services

## Minor Privilege Permit Program



STEPHANIE  
RAWLINGS-BLAKE  
MAYOR



KHALIL A. ZAIED  
DIRECTOR

Baltimore City  
Department of General Services  
Abel Wolman Municipal Building  
200 Holliday Street, Room 204  
Baltimore, MD 21202



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**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**  
Department of General Services

**MINOR PRIVILEGE**  
(THIS IS NOT A PERMIT TO ERECT STRUCTURES)

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Permission is hereby granted \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

**CONDITIONS OF PRIVILEGE**

"This privilege is granted subject to the regulations now in effect and on display in the office of the Department of General Services and subject to revocation by the Board of Estimates, at all times, at its plea. When a permanent or temporary privilege is revoked the obstruction or structure must be removed from the highway within the time specified in a notice to remove from the Bureau of Utility Operations, the Bureau of Collections, or the Department of Housing and Community Development, such notice to be delivered to the owner, agent or tenant or left on the premises. If the said obstruction or structure is not removed within the time specified in said notice, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore is authorized to remove the same, and to dispose thereof either at public or private sale, in the discretion of the Board of Estimates, applying the proceeds of such sale to the cost of removal and charges for this minor privilege.

"All charges arising by virtue of the issuance of this privilege are liens against the property affected until paid.

"Adjustment, abatement and cancellation of minor privilege charges will be made only from the date of written request"

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## Minor Privilege Permit Program

The Baltimore City Department of General Services (DGS) administers the Minor Privilege Program, which provides guidelines on what can and cannot be placed outdoors within the public right-of-way.



### What is a Minor Privilege Permit?

A minor privilege permit lets business owners, homeowners and others place private items in the public right-of-way. Some examples include signs, awnings, tables

and chairs, dumpsters, sidewalk displays, barber poles, lanterns, and decorative objects. Each one of these items needs a *minor privilege permit* so it can be placed in the public right-of-way. They may also require *building permits or zoning approval*. Certain items such as an A-Frame type sign or statues are not allowed.

### What is the fee for a Minor Privilege Permit?

The cost depends on the item, its size, and how the area is zoned. While some items require a one-time at fee, others require an annual fee. The fee structure and the list of allowable items fall under the jurisdiction of the Baltimore City Board of Estimates, which approves each use and hears appeals. Permission to place certain large items permanently may require a City Council franchise ordinance.

### Why Should I Obtain a Minor Privilege Permit?

As a property owner, you must file for a permit when you want to put any private items or structural elements in the public right-of-way. Be proactive! If you want a minor

privilege permit or if you think you have something in the public right-of-way, regardless of the length of time it has been there, contact the Minor Privilege Office at 410-396-3346. A representative will advise you on what you need to do in order to comply with the law.

*Many insurance companies will not knowingly insure properties that have illegal objects attached, affixed or displayed!*



### How Can Citizens Help?

You are our eyes and ears! To report violations, call **311** or visit 311 online at [www.Baltimorecity.gov](http://www.Baltimorecity.gov). You can also call the Minor Privilege Office at 410-396-3346.